

Elk Point REVIEW

Bringing You the News since 1984

Tuesday, December 16, 2014
Vol. 34 No. 50 • \$1 (GST incl.)

**Community
Choir**
Brings Christmas spirit

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Micro Novice
Host one-day tourney

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**Baptist Sunday
School concert**

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Vicki Brooker photo

Tidings of great joy

Gift-bearing Wise Men, shepherds and a tiny angel gathered at the manger on Sunday night to celebrate the birth of the most wondrous gift of all, Jesus, as six churches gathered at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church for the annual Inter-Denominational Cantata. Story on Page 6.

Highway 41 sidewalks closed for the winter

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Sorry, Elk Point – the sidewalks along Highway 41 will remain closed until spring.

A highway sidewalk policy was put in place at last Monday's town council meeting that closes the sidewalks on both sides of Highway 41 to foot traffic to keep the sidewalk available for snowplows to pile snow and keep all four lanes of the highway open through town. After a thorough discussion of the matter at the last public works meeting, council agreed that keeping the sidewalks open was "unrealistic."

The sometimes daily plowing of the highway would make it impossible for town employees to keep the sidewalks clear, especially in the case of a heavy snowfall, when streets within the town are a priority.

Superintendent of Public Works Jay Duffee estimates that the total cleaning of the sidewalks would take four of the town's six-man crew, two trucks, a loader and a flag person from five to eight hours to accomplish, depending on the amount of snowfall, with the safety of the workers also a concern.

Safety concerns also include decreased visibility of pedestrians using the sidewalks while snow was being cleared by the highway crew, and Duffee says the sand and slush pushed onto sidewalks by the plows are "a recipe for icing," making walking difficult and unsafe.

(Continued on Page 2)

Health Care Centre concerns addressed by AHS Northern Operations VP

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Concerns stemming from an Edmonton Journal report on health care services in smaller rural communities such as our own were a major topic of discussion when the Physician and Staffing Recruitment and Retention Committee for Elk Point and Area met last week.

The committee welcomed two new Alberta Health Services (AHS) representatives, Cindy Harmata of Slave Lake, who recently replaced Wendy Harrison as vice-president of AHS Northern Operations, and Tracy Smith of Lac La Biche, the Area 8 director, who replaced Lorraine Berube. Both Harrison and Berube have retired since the committee last met in May.

Harmata, whose career has spanned "different roles

in health care, most of them community-based," and ranging from management to acute care, said she is in "the very daunting position of following Wendy Harrison, who was a terrific person to work for."

"Two years ago, things were quite challenging, with staffing and decisions were made that were quite impactful to the community," Harmata acknowledged. Elk Point Health Care Centre has 12 acute care beds and 30 long-term care beds, "but is all one unit. Let's treat it as an integrated site." Kristen Bepalko has been hired as an integrated site manager, Harmata says, "and her task is to formalize the idea."

An integrated site is one where registered nurses, LPNs, nursing aides and other nursing staff in the facility would receive cross-training so they could work in all areas, with the exception of home care, which she said, "is not there yet."

The concept has "a lot of challenges," Harmata said. "It takes more than saying it to develop confidence and competence. We have made progress, but the concept is not necessarily welcomed." With some of the original staff still skeptical, "We'll set the stage with the new recruits and have them work in all areas and all roles, and work later with the other staff."

Harmata said the health care centre previously had one acute care manager and one long-term care manager, "which made integration more challenging. We had the opportunity to change." Education and job shadowing will be part of the integration process, which is "going to take some time," she noted.

Smith feels the integration will "build more capacity in the staff, and we're asking everybody to be part of it, but we're not forcing it."

(Continued on Page 2)

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Street, sidewalk cleaning priorities listed

(Continued from Front Page)

Carillion, the company that maintains the highways, told Duffee that in order for plows not to pile snow on the sidewalks, only two lanes could be plowed through town, with the snow piled on the outside lanes.

The town receives some funding from Carillion to clean the sidewalks "a couple of times a year," Duffee says. This is done when it is necessary to make room

for more plowed snow, and to speed up melting of snow from the highway in the spring.

Street cleaning priorities for a snowfall of three inches or greater were also set out: 1. Hospital access on 50 Ave. from 51 St. to 54 St.; 2. The school area on 50 and 51 Streets from 50 Ave. to 55 Ave.; 3. Roadways leading out of town, 54 St. from 50 Ave to Hwy. 646, 50 Ave. from 54 St. to town limits, Railway Ave. from 54 St. to Hwy. 41 and 57 Ave. from 51 St. to Hwy. 41; 4. 51 St. from 55 Ave to 60 Ave., 5. Industrial areas as needed.

The downtown areas are typically not cleared until the next day unless there is unusually heavy snowfall. This allows time for business owners to shovel sidewalks onto the streets for pickup. Cleaning of the downtown begins at 5 a.m. in the following order: 50 St. from 51 Ave to Railway Ave.; 49 Ave. from 49 St. to 51 St.; 50 Ave. from Hwy. 41 to 51 St.; 51 St. from 50 Ave. to 49 Ave.; 49 St. from 50 Ave. to 49 Ave.

Sidewalk cleaning priorities include shoveling sidewalks and entrances at the town office and library, footbridge and entrance sidewalks on 51 Ave., 50 Ave, 52 St., 52 Ave. and 51 St. and areas of 50 Ave. where the broom cannot get through. Brooming priorities are 50 Ave. from 54 St. to 51 St., 51 St. from 49 Ave. to 60 Ave., 49 Ave. from 51 St. to 52 St., fire hall pad and entrances, and walkways in the west end trailer court. In the event of a heavy snowfall, sidewalks will be cleaned off first with the loader or bobcat. Driveways will be cleaned wherever the broom crosses.

Town appreciates cleaned sidewalks

On behalf of council, Coun. Lorne Young offered

"a huge thank you to all Elk Point residents and business owners who are so diligent in cleaning the public sidewalks along their property. Their efforts are appreciated and their concern for public safety is admirable. Young also reminded residents and businesses that are not cleaning sidewalks along their property that they are required to do so within 48 hours of a snowfall, as per Bylaw 577/96. Failure to do so may result in a fine or the homeowner may be charged the costs of having the snow removed.

Council briefs

Snow removal was not the only issue before town council last week. With operating budget time approaching, the draft 2015 budget was presented for consideration.

Grants to organizations from Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) funding are now available, with grant applications now being accepted and approval slated for the first meeting of the new year. Mayor Parrish Tung noted that this funding may be phased out by 2016 or 2017, and groups should plan accordingly.

Elk Point needs a new census figure in order to maximize grants available from MSI and from the federal gas tax. Council moved to hold a municipal census in May and June.

The matter of hiring a part time recreation coordinator was brought back to the council table, with council agreeing to advertise the position once again.

Council approved a \$1,000 grant to Elk Point Minor Ball, which hosted provincial championships again this past summer.

Health Care Centre

(Continued from Front Page)

"It's all about partnership and forming a team," Harmata said. "A hundred per cent participation would be a huge accomplishment, with all of the staff working together on health care."

Staffing at the health care centre has come a

long way since the end of 2012, she noted. "It's been pretty positive for the past six to eight months." The integrated site manager has the ability to hire, interview and post vacancies, which Harmata feels should facilitate filling any vacant positions in the future.

Mayor Parrish Tung, who chaired the meeting, recently spent time in the health care centre as a patient, and said he was treated very well. "Every one of them was very professional. I told Minister of Health Stephen Mandel and Minister of Municipal Affairs Diana McQueen that (the staff) saved my life and that if this hospital didn't exist, I'd be dead."

"A couple more" casual workers, to fill in shifts when needed, would be helpful, the mayor and Harmata agreed. "Casual positions are very challenging," Harmata noted, "Typically, we're relying on part time workers to

fill those shifts. We can look at the budget and see what hours can be used to pay casual workers; we could even use part to create a part time position. We'll keep the postings up, and that could help us get to a happier place."

Harmata and Smith planned to visit the health care centre after the meeting, in hopes of getting feedback from the staff and "making sure they know they are heard."

The mayor had been asked what he planned to do about the news article, which he said he felt was "one writer's view" of the situation.

Local realtor Sharon Smith felt the article "has done a lot of damage. It is so detrimental to the community. He misinterpreted the facts and we need to get that out to the public."

Town manager Myron Goyan noted that hospital care and doctors, along with proper schools, are vital to a town, "and the first thing I did when I came here to work was to help kill the threat to the hospital."

Former chair of the Lakeland Health Advisory Council, Diana Anderson reminded everyone that the facility had been closed briefly in late 2012 and had only two beds when it was first reopened, "and that was part of the statistics (the writer) used. It's important that our politicians know that was part of the picture. We need the Minister of Health to know the inaccuracies, we don't want this to influence him."

"The nurses were very

insulted and the doctors very upset" by the article, the mayor noted.

Harmata said the 37 per cent occupancy was accurate for that period of time, which included three to four months of interrupted service, "but last year, there was an average of 50 per cent occupancy, which varied from 45 to 61 per cent at times." Smith added that long-term care occupancy is between 98 and 100 per cent.

"Statistics only tell part of the story," Harmata said; "that is what they were at that point in time." Regarding the large percentage of non-emergency cases using the emergency department, she noted, "Primary care has office hours, you can get an appointment the same day but after hours, where can you go? That's rural Alberta. Yes, we should come up with different solutions. A family care clinic could cut emergency visits by 20 to 30 per cent if it were open seven days a week until 9 p.m. and provides service where it needs to be. There are ideas to be explored, and we have the responsibility to see that tax dollars are spent the best way."

Town Coun. Lorne Young asked if any changes, such as repurposing, were coming through AHS.

"If there were, you'd hear it from me or from my boss, not in the paper," Harmata said. "Four of those nine health centres are in my area and all the physicians and staff now feel anxious. We're going to have those conversations."

Elk Point & Dist. Ag. Society Annual General Meeting

Thursday, December 18, 2014
7:00 p.m.

Horizon Room, A.G. Ross Arena

NEW YEAR'S EVE DINE & DANCE

Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2014

Cocktails 6:00 pm; Supper 7:00 pm

Elk Point Allied Arts Centre
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Tickets: \$50.00 each; Semi Formal Wear
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A BIG VOTE OF THANKS

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And thanks once again to those who helped
to make the evening a success:

Prairie Tech and Truck-In 2000,

Santa and his Elves,

photographer Leanne Gilbert and her helpers,

Elk Point Seniors Recreation Centre,

Elk Point Lions and Community Lions

and all the participating businesses & sponsors.

Christmas Programs

Sunday School Christmas
Concert and Dinner

December 14, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Worship Service

December 21, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Everyone Welcome

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Elk Point
Baptist Church
gateway to life



Vicki Brooker photo

The F. G. Miller Practitioners of Underground Philanthropy (PUP) group were happy to present Susan Frisby (front, second from left) of the Elk Point Community Lions with a \$500 donation to Santas Anonymous. The funds were raised with a dance and their Extravaganza sale.

Snow and cold did not hold PUP back during Extravaganza

BY ALEXIS BRISTOW
F. G. Miller High School

Throughout the school year, the F. G. Miller High School's PUP organization participates in numerous events that not only help members in our community, but teach the students at F. G. Miller Junior and Senior High School how to be a respectful, kind, and caring citizens. The PUP has participated in various events thus far in this school year, such as the Halloween dance where the proceeds go towards groups in need such as the Stollery Children's Hospital or to our sponsor child, Marco.

The most recent event that the PUP group participated in was the Friday, Nov. 28 Extravaganza. From 5:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., the PUP had two tables at the craft show, which was located in the high school gym. At the craft show, our PUP group sold gift baskets that were perfect Christmas gifts, soup in a jar, and candy shaped into Santa's sleigh. Not only did the PUP group sell candy and gift baskets, they also wrapped Christmas presents as well, just like

Santa's Elves. Not only did the PUP have tables in the craft show during Extravaganza but other school related organizations such as the graduating class of 2015, Parent Council, and the travel club did as well. Along with all these organizations, students from F. G. Miller High School had tables as well. At all of these tables numerous students enjoyed helping or selling their baking or products. As a student at F. G. Miller and a member of the PUP group, I helped with the organization of the graduation table and the PUP tables. While I helped at the tables it made me feel proud and I felt good about myself while I watched the crowds swarm in and out of the high school gym doors.

Thank you to all our PUP members who spent a lot of their time making this year's Extravaganza a big success. Our members had a fun and exciting time throughout the night and we can't wait until next year. Keep reading to hear more about the PUP and the events that we participate in throughout the school year!

County increases library budget

JANICE HUSER
Review Contributor

The County of St. Paul's library budget will increase by \$16,000, with \$5,000 going to each the Elk Point and St. Paul libraries, and the remaining being split between Ashmont and Mallaig libraries.

According to provincial statistics, the county still falls below the Alberta average for per capita funding of its libraries, said CAO Sheila Kitz, when speaking to council at the Dec. 9 regular meeting.

"It's not asking for extra, that's the cost of doing business now," said

Coun. Dwight Dach, adding the cost of running libraries is increasing, like everything else.

The library board's total funding request for 2015 is \$118,954.82.

Interim budget

County of St. Paul council passed its interim budget, which is based on last year's numbers.

Operating revenues are set at \$29.9 million, while operating expenditures are set at \$24.9 million. Capital is set at \$5 million.

Mallaig Legion

The Mallaig Legion requested a letter of support from council as it works to move forward with Stage 3 of its renovation project.

"The Mallaig Legion will be tearing down the old part of the hall, including the kitchen, bar and entrance, and then rebuilding it," according to the December county agenda package. This is the final stage of the group's renovation project.

The Legion is applying for a CFEP grant and is requesting a letter of support from the county. Council approved the request.

Spedden Connection

Council will move forward with the engineering for the water transmission line from Spedden to Ashmont.

(Continued on Page 11)



Apple Drugs

Your Natural Choice

Capsule Comments

by Your Natural Choice Apple Drugs
Pharmacy Manager, Chris Letawsky

- We're in the middle of the cough and cold season with all the usual symptoms like sore throat, nasal stuffiness, runny nose and of course, coughing and sneezing. The colour of the nasal discharges is sometimes a concern. If it's green, it doesn't mean you need an antibiotic. It's just a sign that your body is fighting off the infection.
- Colds are incurable and they will run their course in 7-10 days.
- It's almost impossible to develop an immunity to the common cold. A cold can be caused by any of hundreds of viruses that can invade our bodies. These viruses are masters of adaptation so they are always changing which makes it difficult for our bodies to build up an immunity to them.
- There are products on the market that say they will lessen or shorten the duration of cold symptoms. Echinacea and zinc are often mentioned. Although the evidence for echinacea is still inconclusive, zinc does appear to shorten the duration of a cold by a day or two.
- Colds are part of life in the winter in Canada. The virus is passed on by touching infected people or surfaces. It can be inhaled from a person coughing or sneezing. These particles can last for quite a while in the air. The best prevention, minimize your contact with people with colds. Wash your hands often during the day and try not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth with your hands so you don't inoculate yourself with the virus.
- Talk to our pharmacists for cold-symptom relief. We can help.

Pharmaceutical Services Team



Chris Letawsky
Pharmacy Manager



Seyi Oyeboade
Pharmacist



Amanda Sidener
LPN/Pharmacy Assistant

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Monday, December 22	9:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Elk Point
Friday, January 2		

Please bring Alberta Health Care Card. Short sleeves recommended.

albertahealthservices.ca/influenza

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Alberta Government

Alberta Health Services

EDITORIAL

They tried!

We all know that not everything is possible, and apparently keeping the sidewalks along Highway 41 clear through the winter is something that isn't.

To make that happen, the town would have had to hire a whole extra crew and the required equipment to be on standby for snow storms, and none of us even want to think what that would cost the local taxpayers.

Even if the money tree was flourishing and the cost was not prohibitive, there's definitely the safety aspect, both for the cleaning crew and the pedestrians.

Keeping the 50 Ave and 51 Street sidewalks clean will help some walkers, and at least it's an option.

YOUR VIEWS

Rural health care

In the past few weeks there's been a lot of talk about hospitals in Alberta. Some are saying we should close rural hospitals.

Earlier this fall our Premier and our Health Minister asked me to examine rural health care, along with an outstanding group of dedicated health professionals and advocates. Our diagnosis is quite different.

Just like people in cities, folks in rural Alberta get sick. They get hurt, have babies, contract infections, get cancer, suffer from mental illness, have organs that fail, and at some point, their earthly journey ends and they die.

It's called being human.

But shutting down facilities and forcing more rural Albertans to drive to big city hospitals to access basic health services is not human. It's inhumane.

And no, our hospitals aren't as full as those in the cities, but isn't it better to keep people healthy and out of the hospital?

In my veterinary practice, a pen full of sick calves at the feedlot or kennels full of sick dogs at the clinic, that wasn't good--it had me asking, "What are we doing wrong?"

Rural Albertans have told us their medical facilities have tremendous untapped potential that could help take the strain off city hospitals.

They're not talking about heart transplants or brain surgery—they know complex specialized procedures need to be done at urban tertiary care centres.

They're talking about everyday stuff. And with a little ingenuity, stuff that goes beyond everyday.

They've told us about advanced post-operative orthopedic rehabilitation done at the little hospital in Daysland.

They've told us about a clinic, located in repurposed space in a rural hospital, that focuses on preventive medicine. It's driving ER visits way down--in Vulcan.

Maybe that's why they say: "Live Long and Prosper."

Ambulance workers do patient rounds alongside the staff of a long term care centre, assisting with treatments and keeping their skills sharp. That's going on in a little place called Galahad—population, 119.

We know rural health care faces challenges, and the government is facing fiscal challenges, but closing rural hospitals is not the answer.

That is why the Alberta government continues to invest tens of millions to repair and maintain health facilities in rural and smaller centres across the province — from Jasper to Vegreville, Crowsnest Pass to Cold Lake.

So no, closing rural hospitals is not the answer. The ingenuity of rural community leaders and caregivers is.

Dr. Richard Starke MLA
Vermilion-Lloydminster



WAY BACK WHEN...

Christmas bustle, heaping hamper, capacity crowds

HERE'S THE NEWS THAT MADE THE HEADLINES OF THE LAKELAND REVIEW AND ELK POINT REVIEW FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 16 IN...

1984

The Christmas bustle hit Elk Point, with blizzard conditions and arctic air ignored as area residents took in the Lions Pancake Breakfast with Santa, The Cubs and Scouts tree sale, the Elks Lodges-sponsored free movie at the Arrow Theatre, Ukrainian Dance Club Christmas Tea and other Christmas festivities. Owners of mobile homes located on temporary lots were given one month's notice by town council to relocate, now that the new mobile home subdivision was complete.

1989

Elk Point Elementary School students presented a heaping hamper of groceries and a cheque for \$115 from the school's hot lunch sales to Santas Anonymous, to help out less fortunate families in the area. Elk Point Historical Society was set for a new decade, as they began planning to present 1990 tourist traffic with mural brochures and souvenir pins and taking the first steps toward planning for the 1992 Bicentennial of Fort George and Buckingham House although reconstruction of the historic sites was still just a future goal for the group.

1994

Elk Point Community Choir was almost 70 voices strong as they presented their annual Christmas Concert to two capacity crowds, with three sets of

numbers by the choir, quartets and a vocal duet joined by John Bennett on piano and a pair pantomiming making popcorn over a roaring fire to ward off cabin fever. Two Hills Eagles topped the Elk Point Novice Hockey tournament, with the Elk Point No. 2 squad as A side runners up.

1999

A balmy evening, with music floating on the air, brightly coloured lights from one end of Main Street to the other, a crackling bonfire and the laughter of delighted children were all part of the biggest and best Christmas Extravaganza of the century. Elk Point Midget Girls Storm hosted a barn-burner of a tournament, with Dewberry winning the final over Vermilion, and more great action coming early in the new year when the Storm would host the Female Midget Provincials.

2004

Elk Point Chamber of Commerce Christmas Extravaganza Committee members spent a long evening counting and tallying a total of 2,944 draw slips deposited during the Nov. 26 event, and discovered 70.6 per cent of shoppers came from Elk Point and area, 9.5 per cent from St. Paul and 8.9 per cent from Heinsburg, Fishing Lake and Frog Lake. Heinsburg Elementary students hosted a merry little concert complete with shepherds, angels, and students compiling their Christmas lists in rhyme.

2009

Elk Point Community Choir celebrated the first Christmas in their new home with a well-attended concert despite the record cold temperatures outdoors. County council made the decision to begin the process of applying for Water for Life grants for two new water lines that would supply Elk Point and Lottie Lake with water from the St. Paul water treatment plant.

The Elk Point Review publishes a variety of opinions as a contribution to debate on matters of public concern. Unsigned editorials express the view of this newspaper's editorial board which includes the Publisher and the Editor. Signed pieces express the view of the individual writer.

ELK POINT REVIEW

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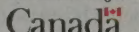
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Community Choir brings Christmas spirit

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

"After this evening, you will be filled with Christmas spirit," Elk Point Community Choir president Barb Buryn told Friday night's audience

at the Elk Point Arts and Leisure Centre, as the choir's annual Christmas Concert got underway.

The choir has already entertained in numerous venues this season, but this was the first performance on their home stage

since Deanna Easthope, their pianist throughout all the years the choir has been in existence, and her husband Blaine, also a valued member of the choir, moved to southern Alberta to be closer to their family. Buryn said, "Deanna left big shoes to fill. In fact, it takes four pianists, Sheila Hatch, Kelsey Taylor, Ruth Snyder and Udo Mueller, to fill them." Buryn also introduced the choir's new page turner, Alyssa Hatch.

As conductor Udo Mueller took his place at the podium, Buryn invited all present to "Let the music envelop you."

The choir opened their performance with "Just Let Me Sing," followed by a program of new and old favourites. "Cradle Me, Lord," a traditional English folk melody, with Hatch at the piano, before the choir gave a tremendous a capella version of the traditional Ukrainian Christmas carol, "Carol of the Bells." Taylor took over the piano bench for the next two numbers, "Winter Canon," which incorporated "In The Bleak Midwinter," and the traditional French carol, "Petite Enfant." The oldest selection on the program, "Dona Nobis Pacem," dating back to the 16th century, was accompanied by Snyder.

(Continued on Page 8)

In concert

Elk Point Community Choir conductor Udo Mueller leads the choir in O Canada to open Friday's concert at the Elk Point Arts and Leisure Centre.

YOUR VIEWS

Tales of a rural health centre

To the Editor:

Elk Point health centre is situated in the Northeast Region of Alberta, which is undergoing tremendous growth due to oil and gas activities recently.

The recent article about Elk Point Health Centre and the suggestion that it should be closed based on some statistical analysis brings a lot of concern to the community. Further, it is important to state that the statistics and conclusion were presented as a personal opinion.

Here are some of the facts that we have:

1. Elk Point Health Centre has 12 acute care beds, which have a consistent 50% occupancy rate.
2. Elk Point Health Centre also has 30 Long Term Care beds which have a 100% occupancy rate.
3. The total staff employed is over 100, which includes all staff serving the 42 beds mentioned including medical and support staff; part time, full time and casual that provide all services to the Health Centre.
4. At present, the emergency/outpatient clinic sees around 600 patients per month. Keep in mind that this is caused by after hours visits, which are a trend for all rural hospitals. As rural residents don't have the luxury of visiting 24/7 Primary Care Clinic as in urban centres, they use the emergency/outpatient clinic when medical offices were closed.

As Mayor of Elk Point, I feel that the use of statistics to trivialize the importance of our Health Centre to our community is wrong. I know that it is basically the opinion of one person who has no authority to speak for any organization. However, I would like to take this opportunity to present some more actual current facts.

I was also part of the statistics recently. I credited my doctor and the healthcare system for saving me from a potentially dangerous situation.

On September 30, I started getting a fever in the afternoon. I made an appointment with my doctor for Thursday, Oct. 2. My fever gradually got worse and on Thursday, when I saw my doctor, I was admitted within half an hour.

On Friday morning, I was sent to Cold Lake for a CT scan. In the afternoon, I had surgery for appendicitis at St. Paul. By Friday night, I was back in Elk Point Health Centre. My experience showed how rural health care can work. My case was diagnosed and prompt action saved me from a possibly life threatening experience. The coordinated response and cooperation between facilities resulted in a positive action. Without the Health Centre in town, would I receive the same speedy response?

I am proud to say that all staff at the Health Centre are dedicated staff regardless of their position. I feel that they are unfairly portrayed in these articles.

Parrish Tung
Elk Point

May the Spirit of the Holidays be in your hearts with your family & friends.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
JOYEUX NOËL
MÎYO MÂNITOU KÎSIKÂW
FRÖLICHE WEIHNACHTEN

Христового Різдва та Щасливого Нового Року

From the Board of Trustees & Staff

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Providing for cultural, linguistic, and religious diversity.



From my family to yours, we wish you a very merry Christmas, a joyous holiday season, and a safe and happy New Year!

MP Brian Storseth
Westlock - St. Paul
www.brianstorseth.ca



Mary Bezpalko, Margaret Bayduza and her sons Timmy and Joseph combined their voices in traditional Ukrainian Christmas carols.

Six churches combine in glorious Cantata

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

The talented singers and musicians from six area churches: Elk Point United, Elk Point Christian Community, Glad Tidings Pentecostal, St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic, Anglican and the host St. Michael's Roman Catholic parishes, combined their songs of the season for a glori-

ous Interdenominational Cantata on Sunday evening.

Father Gerard Gauthier welcomed the visitors and the opportunity to join with other congregations for the occasion, and offered an opening prayer before the children performed their Nativity pageant.

Songs performed by the combined choir alternated with scripture readings by Jorja Theriault,

Brittany Walton, Joseph and Timothy Cardinal and Pastor Bill Kryzanowski and songs by the congregations, with the addition of three very special numbers. Mary Bezpalko was joined by Margaret Bayduza, Timothy and Joseph Cardinal in a pair of traditional Ukrainian carols. Josie Panganiban was accompanied by family members on piano and guitar as she sang the Filipino carol "Ang Pasko ay Sumapit" and its English version, "A Song of Christmas." Gabe Bayduza performed a beautiful and complex piano solo before the Cantata ended with the choir's rendition of "Silent Night" in German, Ukrainian, French, Tagalog and English, the congregation joining in the final stanza.

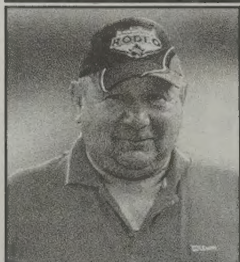
Bayduza was joined by pianists Wanda Kryzanowski, Margaret Bayduza, John Bennett and Irwin Panganiban, Jim Votour on guitar and Tom Valleau on recorder and penny whistle to accompany the singers, while Holly Myshaniuk was the choir director.



IN MEMORIAM

MOROZIUK, Marshall E.

Feb. 6, 1954-Dec. 19, 2012



The years may wipe out many things

But this they'll wipe out never
The memory of those happy days
Which we have spent together.

Gone are the days we used to share

But in our hearts you're always there.

Never more than a thought away
Love and remembered every day.

Treasured memories never die
As years roll on and days pass by.

Deep in our hearts a picture is kept
Of one we love and will never forget.

Tenderly we treasure the past
Memories that will always last.
When we cease to think of you
Will be when God has called us too.

Lovingly remembered
and sadly missed by Agnes;
Robyn, Myrna & Family;
Shaun, Sheryl & Family;
Gladys, Jack & Family.

A Christmas tradition from the Philippines was brought to the Cantata by Josie Panganiban and her family.

THANK YOU



Thank You
The family
of the late
"MIKE
BLAKNEY"
of Elk Point

Wish to thank
everyone for their
expressions of
condolences and
flowers when Mike
unexpectedly
passed away.
Many heartfelt
thanks from
Wendy and
Family.

CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to the Review's Coloring Contest winners, Shyanne Klatt and Micah Urquhart, who each won a 'Olaf' figure from 'Frozen'.

IN MEMORIAM

ANDRISHAK, Joanne

Feb. 2, 1929 - Dec. 22, 1991

In loving memory of a dear wife and mother.

As time goes by without you,

And days turn into years,
Time holds a million memories

And a thousand silent tears.

To us you were so special,
What more is there to say,
Except to wish with all our hearts,
That you were here today.

Forever loved and greatly missed by Peter and Patricia.

Getting ready for Christmas @ Elk Point Library

DAPHNE SCHNURER
Librarian

Need some last minute Christmas ideas or some great books and movies to enjoy over the Christmas break? Check out our great selection - we are open until 5 p.m. on Dec. 23.

Then we are taking a break! We are closed from Dec. 24 to Jan. 4 inclusive, and open again with regular hours on Jan. 5.

We have set three new dates for the After School Reading Program - Jan. 15, 29 and Feb. 12, so kids, bring a friend. Everyone is welcome and there is no charge for this program.

The next Library Tea will take place on Wednesday, Jan 14, so mark that on your new 2015 calendar and don't miss it!

The Knitting and Handicraft group will be back in session on Jan 5, and you may bring any craft project and join us at 2 p.m. It's a great way to share, have fun and get some help if you need it.

Also join us for a retirement planning workshop with Marvin Bjornstad on Jan. 20. Please call us at the library or Elk Point Further Education to register.

And stop in anytime to learn about all our great resources - free magazines, DVDs and music are all available to download with your library card.



On behalf of the Elks Lodge #460 and sharing their Christmas cheer, Lawrence Pidluzny presented instructor Tammy Klatt of Jack & Jill Playschool with a \$500 donation on December 4, 2014. Jack and Jill Playschool is a nonprofit organization and greatly relies on volunteers to keep it going year after year.



Mike Warholik accepts the Second Quarter prize from Elk Michael Chubey.



Michael Chubey presents the big \$300 cheque to Wayne Blazenko, who had the final score in the Grey Cup pool.

Photos submitted.

BIRTHDAY

COME & GO TEA
in honor of
ALICE GREGOR'S
95TH BIRTHDAY
Sunday, December 21, 2014
1 pm to 4 pm at **Vermilion Valley Lodge**
Recreation Room, 4610-53 Ave.
Cake cutting at 2 pm; everyone welcome.

Elks Grey Cup Pool winners

LAWRENCE PIDLUZNY
Elk Point Elks Lodge

The Elk Point Elks Lodge No. 460 has again successfully completed their Grey Cup Pool Ticket fundraiser. Unfortunately though, this year's actual Grey Cup celebration, usually held in the Elks Lodge Room, was cancelled due to satellite dish problems. Nonetheless, the winners were: First Quarter \$100 went to Elaine Siegfried, Second Quarter \$100 to Mike Warholik, Third Quarter winner was Marj Huxley and the Final \$300 prize was awarded to Wayne Blazenko. Thank you all for purchasing tickets and helping to raise the funds necessary to purchase a Caroline's Cart for our local Elk Point Co-op store.

Caroline's Cart is really a specially designed shopping cart allowing children with special needs to ride comfortably while mom or dad do their regular shopping. "It was born from a mother's heart who wanted to give her daughter a fun shopping experience and make her daughter feel included in everyday life". Thank you everyone!

Some of the other Elk Point Elks projects of later include a \$500 donation to the Jack and Jill Playschool, \$250 to Community Lions of Elk Point Santa's Anonymous campaign, and \$200 to the Elk Point Avalanche Novice Hockey Team.

We just wish to remind our local area of the Elks Mission Statement: "A Canadian volunteer organization of men and women serving communities.", and our Vision Statement: "To be the most progressive family focused organization in Canada, meeting community and member needs and expectations. We are always looking for new members with new ideas, hopefully joining us in the New Year.

Grandparents cheer on Micro Novice Avalanche

It's a good thing it was a nice day for a walk, because the only place I could find to park on Saturday was way at the back of the building when the **Micro Novice Avalanche** hosted a one-day, seven-team tournament. Of course the proud grandparents were all there, bragging about their little grandsons or granddaughters and spoiling them after the game with treats, because that's what grandparents do and that's great for our concession sales!

The Avalanche took to the ice for the 9 a.m. start against the Vermilion Tigers. "Mad Dog" Madden Flamand with a hat trick and two assists in the first game, Raif Evans—Anderson with his first goal ever, a one-timer, assisted by the big power forward "Lincoln Park" Pankiw who set him up in front beautifully. Raif did some awesome back checking in this game too, on one play he dived down scooping away the puck just as the Tiger player was about to score. Kaysen DeMoissac making his grandparents very proud scored his first goal too. Kaysen has a little bit of the competitiveness edge just like when I used to play against his father, head coach Jacques, he would give you a little love tap when you skated by a little too close.

Their second game on Saturday was at 5 p.m., the Avalanche taking on the Cold Lake Bears. Sebastian Brousseau, his hair flying out the back, skating end to end, buried two unassisted goals. Charlie Lesyk was spectacular between the pipes, doing poke checks just like the Leaf great Jonny Bower. He looks like a he's going to be a natural. Brother Braylee "BJ" Lesyk may be small but is not going to be intimidated, just like his daddy Willie. You can't push Willie around or "BJ." The towering Cody MacKinley was already working on developing his slap shot, Trystn Sakowsky, Brendan Kadutski, Everett Lindsey and Riley Bourne were all out there on the fore check creating turnovers. A big pat on the back for first year team manager Tessa Pankiw and coaching staff, Jacque DeMoissac, Jon Kadutski, and Willie Lesyk and all the parents for a job well done. Special thanks to Jason Pankiw on the microphone doing the game announcing, since I picked up a nasty cold, lost my voice and couldn't do it. Although, I better watch out, because he has a super voice and I may be out of a job!!!!!!

On Sunday at noon the **Novice Avalanche** hosted Vermilion Tigers, winning this one quite easily 13 to 3. Two goals for Cash "CC" Capjack, who was really on a tear, up and down the ice all game long. He was putting on a good show for his visiting grandparents. "King Kong Konnor" Poitras and "Spiderman" Sam Rogal with hat tricks. A strong game for "St. Nic"

Penner who really turned it on with end-to-end rushes as well. Vaughn Ockerman with two goals and an assist, "Timmy Joe" Cardinal with a one timer that his mother Margaret even saw, Gavin "Giv'er" Kadutski with one, Kale Hoeving with a couple of helpers, "Cyclone Cole" Pierce, "Bo Diddley" Fontaine, Kaleb Flamand, Brenden Haesch-Baker; Seth Morton, and Ethan Castle-Wasson all with assists,

BASSETT Looks like the **Bantam Avalanche** are back on track; they took a bit of a beating last week when they slacked off, but this past Sunday they rebooted

when they traveled to Mallaig and gave the Monarchs a 12 to 2 spanking. Nicholas "Sparky" Anderson was on fire, lighting the lamp for half of the offense, scoring six goals. You give "Sparky" some room to operate and he can really burn you. The other six goals are spread out among the team, Zane Cribbins, "the Big O" Brody Odgaard, Kaiden "K Rock" Evans-Anderson, Angus McFarlane and team captain "Warrior Warren" Ference with one goal each. Hayden "Hot Wheels" Ludlage with three helpers, Bradley Canning with two assists as well,

The **Peewee Girls Storm** are showing signs of improving every week, but the coaching staff is really starting to push them to play at their potential, they want them to get a little tougher on the puck and more aggressive on the fore check and meaner in front of the net. It's time to put on the big girls' panties and get it done!

Another busy workout for goalie, Erin "Rock Star" Duffee with 76 shots against Lloydminster on Sunday here at home. Not the size of the dog that matters it's the bite and Laramie "Larry" Parr is proof, she's small but terrific at hounding other players on the fore check regardless of their size. I bet the speedy smooth skating Jenna "Precious" Poitras could give her brother Chad a run for the money in straight away race down the Moose Mountain Speedway. When Jelena "Prime time" Parr gets her head down she is determined to come out of the corners with the puck. Tiya "Tigress" Noel "can be a little nasty when someone gets too close to the cage, "Jorja Girl" Theriault getting really effective on winning the face offs, Missy Sparklingeyes battles in front of the net, the most improved skater on the team has to be Paula Hladunewich, she has long strides and can really wheel now. Super Sydnee "the Kid" Crawford improving on her stop and goes and it shows. Halle "Comet" Stybel was always on the attack. Stay at home defense woman Paityne "Chatty" Chartrand making sure she protects her goalie. Bailey Dion, Kayee Hannin and Jaenna Saskiw all showing

signs of improved skating and stick handling.

It was a busy weekend for tournaments, the **Atom Avalanche** traveling to Mannville. Winning both games on Saturday, in the first one they scored three goals in the last two minutes, the winner with 12 seconds left, the final 10 to 9 over Mallaig. In the second game on Saturday they beat Vermilion 11 to 2, sending them to the A final on Sunday against the host Mannville, the Avalanche losing this one 8 to 5. Everyone on the team played very well and was on the score sheet with at least one point.

Marwayne always manages to ice a solid tier one team. No question, St. Paul tier one and Cold Lakes tier one peewees are going to be at the top of the league too. They knew going in that it would be challenging for the **Peewee Avalanche** playing in a tier one tournament in Marwayne, but some really positive plays all the same this past weekend. "Sexy Slader" Hardcastle and Ronan "Radar" Poulin, sharing the goaltending duties, saw a ton of rubber. Now for the K.A. Campbell quote of the week "The three important elements of hockey are fore check, back check, and pay check." Last week's answer to: "Behind the bench is the best job in hockey." - Punch Imlach.



doug
BASSETT
Review Sports

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Weekend win, loss for Elks

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Stands were packed Friday night when Buddy Bensmiller and his Dewberry Mustangs galloped into town, leaving some rather nasty hoofprints on the Elk Point Elks, who rebelled against the stampeded visitors.

The Elks were first on the scoreboard, Andy Skoreyko assisted by Chevy Botting, four minutes into the game, but Dewberry's Chance Bensmiller scored a shorthanded goal a few minutes later, assisted by Brad MacNab. MacNab assisted Mitch Walker on the Mustangs'

second goal, while Bensmiller scored unassisted to make it 3-1 in the visitors' favor by the end of 20 minutes.

Dewberry would score a fourth goal just over seven minutes into the second frame, Walker's second of the game with another assist by MacNab. The Elks replied with a goal of their own, once again the teamwork of Skoreyko and Botting.

A fight at the Elks goal gave Elks goalie Paul Boulianne and the Mustangs' Ty MacNab each four minutes for roughing, and Boulianne two minutes, served by Myles Whitford, for unsportsmanlike conduct. Dewberry took

advantage of the power play to score the final goal of the evening, this time by McNabb scoring off an assist by Walker, bringing the score to 5-2.

That score remained in place for the rest of the game, but the bottom of the scoreboard was kept busy with a steady run of penalties, including 10-minute unsportsmanlike conducts for one Elk and two Mustangs, with one from each team also receiving a game misconduct and two other Dewberry players four minute roughing penalties from the same scuffle near the end of the game

(Continued on Page 11)

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COUNTY OF
ST. PAUL No. 19



HIGHLIGHTS

December 9, 2014

Council Meeting

Amendments to the Land Use Bylaw and Municipal Development Plan – Council gave first reading to Bylaw No. 2014-34 which is an application to rezone 18.9 acres in the S ½ PSE 6-57-6-W4 from Agricultural to Industrial/Commercial for an Industrial Shop and Light Repairs. Council also gave first reading to Bylaw No. 2014-40 to amend sections in Part 2, 5, 7 and 8 of Land Use Bylaw No. 2013-50. Both bylaws will be advertised and public hearings will be held to hear from anyone who is in favor or opposed to the proposed changes. All proposed bylaws can be viewed on the County website.

Council also approved Bylaw No. 2014-31 to rezone 10 acres in PSE 25-56-7-W4 from Agricultural to Country Residential One.

Regional Emergency Management Mutual Aid Agreement – Council entered into an agreement with the Town of St. Paul, the Town of Elk Point and the Summer Village of Horseshoe Bay to provide emergency services to support a municipality in the group which may be affected or threatened by an emergency and require assistance.

Fee Schedule Bylaw – Council adopted an updated fee schedule bylaw which includes the rate changes that were made over the course of the year as well as proposed changes recommended by the Safety Codes Act Committee. Rates in the bylaw are reviewed annually to keep up with inflation rates and to reevaluate the services provided to ratepayers.

Water Line from Spedden – Council agreed to commence with engineering for the water transmission line from Spedden to Ashmont. The engineering of the water transmission line and required buildings for the project will be funded under the current approved project. Urban Systems has been contracted to do the engineering for this project as it is a scope change and continuation of the original approved project from 2010.

Employment and Payroll Services Agreement – Council approved an Employment and Payroll Services Contract with the Mallaig & District Ag Society to provide both staff and payroll services for the Arena Caretaker position. The Mallaig and District Ag. Society will reimburse the County at an agreed rate of pay for the staffing.

Funding Support:

- \$300 – St. Paul Jr. Curling Association
- \$500 – Mallaig School and St. Paul Regional High School for Sr. Volleyball teams attending Provincial Championships
- \$500 – Mallaig School for Provincial Track & Field
- \$5000 – Elk Point Minor Ball
- \$13,333.33 – CG Baker Riding Arena
- \$13,333.33 – Elk Point Curling Club
- \$13,333.33 – A.G. Ross Arena

We are requesting that when residents are clearing their driveway and push the snow across the road, that they do not leave ridges on the road as this is a safety issue.

Residents who require snow removal on their driveways can purchase flags from the County at the Administration Office, Public Works, or the Town of Elk Point Administration Office. Seniors can have their driveways plowed free of charge, however they require a flag which can be picked up from the County Administration Office or Public Works.

Christmas Hours – The County Office will close at noon on December 24 and will reopen on Monday December 29. The office will also be closed at noon on December 31 and January 1, 2015.

For more information contact Sheila Kitz, CAO, County of St. Paul at 780-645-3301, ext. 208.



SECOND - GENERATION DIRECTOR Kelsey Taylor takes over the podium while her dad, Udo Mueller accompanies the Elk Point Community Choir in "Ain't That A Rockin' All Night," with solos by Carrie Poulin (front left).

Community Choir

(Continued from Page 5)

Buryn herself took over the keyboard while several members of the choir led the audience in a sing-along of favourite carols and Christmas songs.

The entire choir returned to the stage for the lilting melody, "Good People, Be Ye Glad," accompanied by Taylor before she moved over to the conga drum, to accompany a new take on "We Three Kings" entitled "Follow the Star," with Hatch at the piano and Dixie Coleman playing the shakers. The same trio accompanied "Hear the Bells of Christmas Morning," following an amazing condensation of the familiar rhythms of Tchaikovsky's always popular classic, "The Nutcracker" into three music-filled minutes.

A traditional spiritual, "Ain't That A Rockin' All Night," saw Mueller take over the keyboard, with Taylor taking her father's place at the podium and Carrie Poulin adding solos to the lively number.

Mueller took the opportunity to address the audience before the final number of what he said was "a short concert, but a good one." He listed the choir's earlier performances this holiday season, and said they were headed to Edmonton early Saturday for a huge event involving a

number of choirs. "Our frantic schedule helps others relax," he noted. "All these events serve as preparation for the observance of a quiet and private event, the birth of Jesus."

The choir itself has had a pair of blessed events recently, since starting the new season "with two mamas in waiting. These babies have been passed arm to arm across the whole choir."

Mueller said the choir members "rejoice in each other's joys," but also share in sorrows, such as the passing this fall

of former choir member Clem Johnson, when they had the honour of singing at his funeral. The choir was also sad to say farewell to the Easthopes, and is fortunate that they still have "the riches of piano talent" in the remaining members.

The concert closed with a medley of traditional carols that were combined in "O Come And Sing of Christmas," before the choir, conductor and all the pianists received a rousing standing ovation as they took their bows.



Kelsey Taylor on conga drum and Dixie Coleman with the shakers accompanied "Follow the Star."



EVERYBODY SING! Elk Point Community Choir president Barb Buryn is at the keyboard and three ladies of the choir lead the carol sing-along.



THE KING'S KIDS from Elk Point Christian Community Church toured the town on a tractor-drawn hay rack Wednesday afternoon, serenading the townsfolk and paying a visit to the Heritage Lodge seniors.



SINGER AND SONGWRITER Darryl Fraess, his daughter Shayla and bass player Rob entertained a packed crowd at the Elk Point Christian Community Church on Saturday evening.

Banquet, concert enjoyed at Christian Community Church

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

The adult congregation of Elk Point Christian Community Church and their guests enjoyed a sumptuous Christmas banquet prepared by the ladies on Saturday evening, then sat back to enjoy a concert of country and gospel music provided by Darryl Fraess, his daughter Shyla and his Cross Country band bass player, Rob.

Fraess started off with a Johnny Cash favourite, "One Piece at a Time," followed by Bobby Darin's late-1950s hit, "Dream Lover," before pausing to tell the audience a bit about himself and Birch Bay Ranch, a camp, where he is manager. The camp annually accommodates about 800 youngsters from all kinds of backgrounds, he said. "We tell them who Jesus is and what He means to us." The camp also accommodates retreats, school groups and hosts functions, such as this past weekend's Christmas in the Country Banquet at the Ranch.

Fraess is a big George Strait fan, and sang "The Big One" and "God Must Be

a Cowboy at Heart" before performing his first gospel number, "In the Garden," followed by one of his original songs, written in 1996, "Brand New Man."

The church's former pastor, Bill Kryzanowski, read a letter he had received from a longtime friend which outlined the sad situation in the Ukraine, where many have been forced out of their homes by terrorists, leaving all their possessions behind. The church members agreed to send the evening's offering to aid those who have been displaced and who need food, clothing and shelter.

Fraess sang "Act Naturally" and "Give Him a Call," which he said was based on Acts 16, before he and Shyla teamed up to sing one of his originals, "I'm In Love With My Daddy."

The remainder of the concert featured Randy Travis hits, "Three Wooden Crosses" and "How Do I Wrap My Heart Up for Christmas?" Stompin' Tom's "Hockey Song," Shyla singing "Let it Snow" and "Winter Wonderland," and more Fraess originals: "Sleighride for Two," "Lone Star Night" and "Imagine a Christmas."

Holiday Cheer

**Christmas Hours
at the
Elk Point Food Store**

**Dec. 22 & 23
opened till 9 pm**

**Dec. 24
opened till 4 pm**

Dec. 25 & 26 Closed

**Dec. 31
opened till 5 pm**

Jan. 1 Closed



St. Paul & District

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**County of St. Paul
No. 19**

Council & Staff
County office will be closed
Dec. 25 to 27 and Jan. 1, 2015



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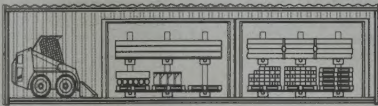
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Elks

(Continued from Page 7)

Elks 9, Monarchs 3

It was a whole different game in Neilburg the following night, when the Elks tripled the Monarchs 9 to 3, taking an early two-goal lead in the first with goals by Craig Dallaire, assisted by Ryan MacDonald and by Joel Miller, assisted by Dylon Loughran.

Miller scored three more in the second period, with two assists by Chevy Botting, one with the help of Dyson Karbaszewski and one by MacDonald, with an unassisted goal by Myles Whitford. Two Neilburg goals brought the score to 6-2 after 40 minutes. Neilburg started the third period with another goal but the Elks added three more to the scoreboard, Karbaszewski unassisted, Conrad Pierce assisted by Botting and Scott Ward unassisted, to complete the 9-3 win.

This Friday, the Elks host Wainwright Rustlers at 8:30 p.m.

County briefs

(Continued from Page 3)

So far, the county has received positive feedback from the province after making its decision to move forward with bringing water from Spedden to Ashmont and Lottie Lake.

Kitz said she verbally was told that the province is happy with the direction the county has decided to go, and the engineering costs are already covered under previously approved funding.

"In speaking to Alberta Transportation staff, they have indicated that we still have sufficient monies in the current approval to proceed with the engineering of the water transmission line and required buildings for the project," said Kitz.

Monthly water fees

Two county residents have expressed concern about receiving monthly service charges along two separate waterlines within the county.

One resident along the St. Paul-Elk Point line says he was not aware of the monthly fee when he signed up for the meter vault, and now wants to cancel his contract, according to council's December agenda.

Another resident along the Ashmont-Lottie Lake line purchased property without realizing he would be receiving a monthly service charge. He was also looking to cancel his contract.

Although administration recommended both requests be denied, council only denied the request from the St. Paul-Elk Point resident, and deferred a decision on the resident in the Ashmont-Lottie Lake area.

Kitz told council that all residents with meter vaults along the St. Paul-Elk Point line had received the same correspondence in the mail, notifying them of the monthly fee, which is \$51.65, effective

Oct. 1, 2014. Consumption charges only start once the resident is using the water.

"It's a different situation," said Coun. Frank Sloan, when speaking of the resident in the Ashmont area. Because the water hookup isn't on the resident's private property, but instead in the ditch, it would be hard to know the hookup was there when purchasing the land, said Sloan.

"All I worry about is what's on title, that's how I do it," said Sloan, as he described how he would have personally handled purchasing agricultural land. He added that the two requests were separate issues and should be dealt with individually.

Kitz said legally, the county couldn't put a caveat on the title of the land to ensure future owners are aware of the hookup. Council then questioned where the responsibility falls, since the hookup is on county property.

Dashing through the snow to the Crusader Craft/Trade and Book Fair!

DENISE BJORKMAN

Event Coordinator

It takes the dedication and hard work of many people from the school and community to make any event a success. Teamwork is of the essence! What greater way to begin the holiday season than with the 21st Annual Crusader Trade, Craft and Book Fair as our Crusader family rallied to create a fabulous event! Despite Mother Nature's symphonic show of snow on Nov. 27 and 28, on Extravaganza night, F. G. Miller High School was a-bustle with folks braving the blowing snow and cold to gather at our one night event.

Pre-show preparations would have been a "Nightmare before Christmas" were it not for our talented and caring crew who helped make the event a success, and who moved 40 tables borrowed from A. G. Ross arena to add to our 40 in-house tables. Our event was promoted on the school sign, recently re-vamped by Mr. Hoyle and looking fabulous, via Facebook and emails, the water bills and Town of Elk Point website, all great ways to get the word out.

The Phys Ed department gave up their space at noon that day and the entire student population (no buses ran that day) helped move tables from our halls and storage room into our gym. Many hands made light work of setup and fit 33 exhibitors into the gym and still left room for the stage that teachers and students were then able to set up. Shane. Larmand and Randall Kryz were key in preparing for our talented line-up.

Professor Richer was one of the key components that made the night a success. Her crazy critters from lizards to spiders and chinchillas were one of the highlights of the night for our young guests. She moved all her animals to Room 1, and made her corner a Christmas Wonderland scene. She and her daughter Siobhan were busy all night answering questions and sharing their love for their strange and wonderful pets!

A new addition to the night included live music by the Crusaders and special guests: Carson Tung with his amazing talent on the keyboard, Shane Larmand, Austin Stafford, Art Larmand, Siobhan Richer, Emma Poulin, Savannah Lawrence, Jessie Kim, Mr. & Mrs. Clarke, Mr. Burke and Ebon Fae, Denise and Colin Bjorkman. Our music component was very well received, and we look forward enjoying more live music next year.

Our stage was also in the spotlight when Bernie Poitras, auctioneer extraordinaire, stepped up to auction off the Travel Club cakes. The club's poinsettias are still available in our library.

Festive pictures were made available by the R. E. Beattie Library and the Elk Point Travel Club. Clifford the Big Red Dog (from the Book Fair) and The Grinch (from our library) were on hand to wish our guests a Merry Christmas. Mr. Casper and Mr. Shankowski took photos of many a Who and Clifford's friends too! A very special Whoville Hullabaloo to the Grinchies and a big wag of the tail to Clifford's friends. These students really brought the best out of our red and green characters. Watch for photos with The Grinch and a new guest, Geronimo Stilton, next year.

It certainly would not have been a craft/trade sale without our lineup of exhibitors who shared their love of crafting and their products that evening. They braved the bad roads and swirling snow to give shoppers a wide variety of products for the holiday season. The weather did keep 11 exhibitors away, but we hope to see them next year (weather permitting, of course!)

Our Wapiti Concession crew was so busy that they sold out of their signature perogy plates and chili and a bun! Luckily they had a back-up plan, and shoppers left with full tummies and gifts a-plenty!

Our Scholastic Book Fair was a huge success as well! The night's sales exceeded \$3,500 with the following week's sales adding to the total! The addition of a debit machine this year helped to promote sales. Ryleigh Trochie, Michline Walker and Elaine Bjorkman were taking in sales and handing out books, posters and supplies.

A surprise donation from the Elk Point Historical Society of two books to our library was a great Christmas gift for our library. We now have Elk Point Homesteaders by Dr. F. G. Miller and Our Past: A collection of News of Elk Point and Area by Steve Andrichak.

What goes up, must come down! We ended the night helping exhibitors with packing up and closing down the building. Monday brought better weather and the gym classes folding up the tables and chairs, taking down the stage and putting it all back to a pre-craft sale state, hauling tables to the curling rink with great volunteer help. Our custodial staff is so supportive of the event and helped to bring back "normal" after the night's festivities.

Finally, immense gratitude to the Crusaders and the community for all the hard work and dedication that made our 21st annual event a HUGE success. It's great to have the commitment of our administration team, our town and surrounding community. We are making F. G. Miller High School and the Town of Elk Point "The Right Place to Be!" Merry Christmas!

(Edited - see the full article at fgmiller.ca)

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Baptist Sunday School presents "The Guest"

VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Elk Point Baptist Church's Sunday School classes presented an uplifting combination of music, song, Gospel readings and thought-provoking drama in their Christmas Concert on Sunday morning as their gift to the appreciative congregation.

Talented young pianists Logan Peters, Lane Peters, Tallyn Gadwa, Emily Goodbrand, Kennedy Quist, Hannah Goodbrand, Landon Peters and Victoria Goodbrand, and violinist Melanie Goodbrand entertained with their musical talents, each number followed by a Bible reading of the Christmas story by adults Daryll Peters, Toni May, Dayna Gadwa, Ed Cadieux, Harry Peters, Kerry Anderson, Lori-anne Peters and Lois Doering.

Sunday School Beginner, Kindergarten and Grade 1 classes delighted the audience with their action song, "Hush, There's a Baby."

A cast of 21 from the Grade 2 to 8 Sunday School classes performed "The Guest," showing how the average family can get so caught up in the preparations to welcome Jesus on Christmas eve that they ignore all those who come to their door, looking for help, only to find that all those visitors were the many faces of Jesus, who was disappointed by their reaction. Micah Urquhart added her piano number to the play, which starred Tyson, Lane, Kennedy, Victoria, Landon, Samantha, Casey, Jareth, Kady, Mark, Hannah, Levi, Micah, Tallyn, Logan, Chantelle, Christine, Ryan and Jakob.

Congregational singing, with Kerry Anderson at the piano, and opening and closing prayers by Harry Peters completed the morning.

A tremendous potluck dinner and plenty of time for fellowship followed the concert.



The youngest students of Elk Point Baptist Church Sunday School performed "Hush, There's a Baby" under the guidance of Lori-anne Peters, above. Below, the older students rush to prepare for the arrival of Jesus, brushing off all who come to their door seeking help, which proves to be a mistake when Jesus appears to the tired-out father of the family in a dream, right.



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